

## **Report of the Mitigation Subcommittee to the NTHMP, November 6, 2003**

### **Engineering Project**

The Engineering Project is a national (multi-state) priority core proposal from the states and FEMA for 2004 and 2005 funding. Two earlier phases consisting of a workshop to explore the concept and data collection were led by the State of Washington. The next phases will be led by FEMA and will utilize the information collected to produce a design guidance document for critical buildings. Funding will consist of equal matches of \$100,000 each from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program (NTHMP) and Department of Homeland Security/FEMA during each of the next two years.

### **TsuInfo Alert Newsletter**

The newsletter serves as a key communication link between the NTHMP and local responders and congressional staff. It is a core national priority project that the Mitigation Subcommittee would like to see maintained. Costs have increased and this year are estimated at \$35,000.

### **Bridge for Disseminating Real Time Technical Assistance and Coordinating Community Protective Action Recommendations**

The bridge concept proposal is an activity working towards incorporating the NTHMP and NOAA into the National Response Plan. Currently the Hurricane Liaison Team and various components related to it work well to efficiently share critical information among responders at the national, regional and state levels and hurricane scientists during an approaching hurricane. This activity fosters better understanding of the potential impacts from a specific event, allows pre-positioning of resources for responders, and reduces the number of information requests to the warning center. It may be possible to adapt this model to address similar tsunami issues. FEMA will present more information on Friday to the Steering Committee and suggest a later formal discussion of this possibility. The Mitigation Subcommittee members discussed this concept during their evening meeting on Wednesday and expressed willingness to explore the issue further.

### **Incorporating tsunami into HAZUS**

Discussion continued on the possibility of incorporating tsunami into HAZUS. Currently data for fragility curves does not exist but this should come from the engineering project and other sources in the future. Discussion centered on whether a simpler pilot project might be attempted. Discussion will continue about a potential pilot project using work being done in Washington and Oregon and at the TIME Center. FEMA Headquarters HAZUS staff has offered to match NTHMP funds to deliver a base product incorporating tsunami but no proposal is currently developed. FEMA Region X GIS staff may assist with a pilot project. Development of a rough version of HAZUS tsunami or GIS tsunami is of interest to the group.

### **2003 Local warning system re-survey of community emergency managers to compare with 2001 and 1994 results**

The 12-question survey that was developed and run in 1994 and 2001 is being run for a third time following the September 25, 2003 tsunami information/watch/warning event. Results will be published and made available to the Steering Committee. With 40% surveys completed, overall the results appear to indicate high levels of understanding and use of the messages by local emergency managers on the Northwest Coast. Some suggestions for further message improvement have been received and will be presented to the warning centers for consideration.